THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). New petrol/diesel outlets are opened in different cities as per marketing plans and according to the policy from time to time.

[*English*]

Book-Stall at New Delhi Railway Station

2949. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prior to May, 1988 three book-stalls, two counter tables eleven trolleys were functioning at platforms number 1 to 5 of New Delhi Railway station whereas only three book-stalls are functioning at these platforms at present with the result that unauthorised hawking of books and magazines is going on at these platforms;

(b) if so, the action taken or being taken to provide more authorised book-stalls/counters at these platforms in order to curb the activities of unauthorised hawkers there; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to stop unauthorised hawkers from functioning at these platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The counter-tables and trolleys have been withdrawn with a view to easing congestion on the platforms at New Delhi station. Some increase in unauthorised hawking was noticed. A task force has been set up by the Railway and regular checks are being conducted to curb the unauthorised hawking. There is no proposal at present either to increase the number of stalls or to restore any table/trolley at the platforms.

Conveyance Allowance to I.T.D.C. Employees

2950. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of the India Tourism Development Corporation employees who have been granted conveyance advance are being allowed to claim the actual conveyance expenses rather are being allowed to claim the actual conveyance expenses rather than their entitled monthly fixed conveyance allowance as per ITDC/ Government Rules; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Accordingly, to the rules of ITDC, employees performing journeys for official purposes are allowed re-imbursement on the basis of actual expenses, irrespective of advance having been given to them for purchase of vehicle. The employees who have fixed conveyance allowance are not allowed re-imbursement of local conveyance expenses.

Taking over of Vayudoot by Dalmias

2951. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Dalmias to take over Vayudoot" appearing in the 'Business Political Observer' dated July 12, 1991; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is not considering the handling over of Vayudoot to any private party.

[*Translation*]

Rail Link from Deoghar to Dumka and Giridih to Ranchi

2952. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been conducted thrice for laying railway line from Deoghar to Dumka;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lay railway line in this backward area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Losses in DESU

2953. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) has made any request to write off its dues to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the DESU has been making losses year after year and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether there has been a steep fall in the electricity generation by the DESU; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). A proposal was received from DESU for writing off the accumulated dues of the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (under the management of the NTPC) for the period 1.4.1989 to 28.2.1991 amounting to about Rs. 978 Crores. In view of the revision of tariff by DESU with effect from 1.3.1991, the Government has not agreed to the proposal for the present.

(c) DESU has been continuously incurring revenue losses due to the allround increase in the cost of various inputs including the cost of generation/purchase of power without any corresponding increase in its tariff from April, 1985. With a view to improve its financial position, DESU has increased its tariff with effect from 1.3.1991.

(d) No, Sir. The plant load factor of Indraprastha Thermal Station has increased from 44.66% in 1988-89 to 55.59% in 1989-90, 57.57% in 1990-91.

(e) The steps taken to improve the power supply position in Delhi, include strengthening and augmentation of transmission and distribution system at various voltage levels, installation of 3x34.07 MW Waste Heat Recovery Units at the existing Gas Turbines of DESU and a 400 KV Transmission Ring around Delhi. Setting up of a 800 MW Gas based Power Station in Delhi is